

## Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY NEA:AFN:DLJAMESON:MAR  
APPROVED BY P - MR HABIB  
NEA:ALATHERTONJR.  
S - PETER TARNOFF  
S/S:MR. ORTIZ (S/S 7706539)

-----101850Z 109795 /53

R 101630Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

S E C R E T STATE 053245

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, US, PSDC

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE FROM SECRETARY  
VANCE

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY VANCE TO  
PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: AS YOU ARE AWARE I RECENTLY HAVE  
RETURNED FROM A FACT-FINDING TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST. MY  
OBJECTIVE ON THIS TRIP WAS TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES  
FOR FURTHER MOVEMENT IN THE DIRECTION OF AN OVERALL PEACE  
SETTLEMENT. KNOWING FROM MY PREDECESSOR OF YOUR HELPFUL  
INTEREST IN OUR PEACEMAKING EFFORTS, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE  
WITH YOU SOME OF THE IMPRESSIONS WHICH I GAINED DURING THE  
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TRIP AND OUR EVALUATION OF THE PROSPECTS FOR RESUMED  
PROGRESS TOWARD A SOLUTION.

3. MY VISIT WAS DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE THE HIGH PRIORITY  
WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER PLACES UPON MAKING PROGRESS THIS  
YEAR TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND TO ESTABLISH  
PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THE LEADERS OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH

MUST PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS. THE

INTIMATE PERSONAL FORMAT OF THE MEETINGS WHICH I HAD AT EACH OF MY STOPS PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO HEAR IN DETAIL DIRECTLY FROM THE PRINCIPAL DECISION MAKERS THEIR CANDID VIEWS ON THE MAIN PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.

4. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS DURING THE TRIP WE FOUND THAT THERE IS A CLEAR DETERMINATION ON BOTH THE ARAB AND ISRAELI SIDES TO MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT FOR PEACE AS WELL AS A CONSENSUS BY ALL CONCERNED THAT THEY SHOULD WORK TOWARD RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1977. ALL ALSO WANT THE UNITED STATES TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND AGREE THAT IF ESSENTIALLY PROCEDURAL MATTERS SUCH AS THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION CAN BE RESOLVED THEY ARE PREPARED TO GO TO GENEVA TO DISCUSS THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. ALL PARTIES RECOGNIZE AS WELL THAT MUCH GROUNDWORK MUST BE DONE BEFORE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE CAN RECONVENE WITH ANY PROSPECT OF SUCCESS.

5. I WAS ENCOURAGED IN THIS RESPECT TO HEAR FROM A NUMBER OF ARAB LEADERS THAT THEY RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR AN ARAB CONTRIBUTION TO A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS ARE BEING AIRED BY THE ARAB COUNTRIES AMONG THEMSELVES.

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6. I WAS ALSO ENCOURAGED TO FIND THAT, WHILE LARGE DIFFERENCES REMAIN OVER THE TERMS OF A FINAL SETTLEMENT, THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT THE CORE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED ARE NOT ONLY THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONS AMONG THE PARTIES UNDER A PEACE SETTLEMENT AND THE QUESTION OF WITHDRAWAL AND FINAL BORDERS, BUT ALSO A SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM THAT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

7. NOW THAT WE HAVE MADE INITIAL CONTACTS AND DEVELOPED A BASIS UPON WHICH TO PROCEED, THE NEXT STEP IN OUR EFFORTS WILL BE MEETINGS BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE LEADERS OF THE STATES CONCERNED OVER THE NEXT TWO TO THREE MONTHS -- MEETINGS WHICH HAVE BEGUN WITH THE CURRENT VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN TO WASHINGTON. WE SEE THESE MEETINGS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY FURTHER HOW A GENEVA CONFERENCE CAN BE ORGANIZED AND TO DEFINE IN ADVANCE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE THE AREAS OF SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT. WE ALSO ENVISAGE ACTIVE DIPLOMATIC EX-

CHANGES BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THESE MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. IN ADDITION TO OUR EXCHANGES WITH THE CONCERNED PARTIES THEMSELVES, WE WILL BE CONSULTING WITH THE

SOVIET UNION, AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, WITH OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES, AND WITH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM.

8. I HOPE THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY SOMEDAY FOR US TO HAVE A PERSONAL DISCUSSION OF THESE AND OTHER ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IN THE MEANWHILE I WOULD WELCOME ANY THOUGHTS OR COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE ON OUR EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST OR ELSEWHERE.

9. BEFORE CLOSING I WOULD LIKE ALSO TO CONVEY MY PERSONAL REGRETS TO YOU REGARDING THE ABRUPT NATURE OF AMBASSADOR PARKER'S DEPARTURE FROM ALGIERS. I AM SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES MADE IT  
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NECESSARY FOR HIM TO ARRIVE IN BEIRUT VERY QUICKLY. WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF CHOOSING A NOMINEE TO REPLACE AMBASSADOR PARKER AND A REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE. SINCERELY, CYRUS VANCE. END TEXT.

10. FYI: OTHER SUGGESTIONS IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF ALGIERS 537 ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY DEPT AND RELEVANT AGENCIES.  
VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PSDC, AG, US, XF, (BOUMEDIENE, HOUARI), (VANCE, CYRUS R)  
**To:** ALGIERS  
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